



Common in Rural New Mexico

Domestic Servitude

Victims of domestic servitude may appear to be nannies or other domestic help, and may come to NM on vacation with their “employers,” but when their job transitions into a situation in which they cannot leave on their own free will, it becomes a case of enslavement.

- Threat of or actual physical harm/signs of abuse
- Little to no personal belongings/dependence on employer
- Threat by employer of deportation or police report
- Fearful, anxious, submissive, or paranoid behavior
- Can't eat with rest of family/no proper bedroom
- Works excessive hours, on call 24/7
- Pay is below minimum wage, recruited falsely
- Cannot leave house without employer

Child Abuse/Exploitation

Child abuse can be physical, mental, or verbal. Abuse of a child's vulnerability by exploiting a position of trust or power to obtain sexual services in exchange for some form of favour such as alcohol, drugs, attention or gifts is referred to as child sexual exploitation.

It is common in rural areas for parents or relatives to exploit children in their care.

- Shows signs of physical or sexual abuse (includes STIs)
- Often going missing/secretive
- Signs of low self-esteem, self-harm, drugs, eating disorders
- Associates with significantly older, suspicious people
- Has unexplained money/gifts
- Experimenting with drugs/alcohol
- Is under 18 and performing sexual services
- Questionable social media conduct

Sexual Exploitation

Involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain a commercial sex act. Can be a relative or boyfriend selling sex from his home.

- Working in a brothel (can be residential housing, hotel, club, bar)
- Moved between brothels or cities, even countries
- Shows signs of physical, verbal, sexual, or drug abuse
- Sleeping on work premises, unable to move freely
- Has their money confiscated by someone else
- Has limited clothing, majority is sexual in nature
- Avoids eye contact, anxious, nervous, paranoid
- Fearful or defensive of their situation

If you suspect any of these or any type of trafficking, contact the National Human Trafficking Hotline at

888-37 37-888

For a complete list of general signs of human trafficking in the USA and globally, visit vostambien.org
or if you don't feel it's an emergency, you can ask VT questions via email, info@vostambien.org